

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-33. (cancelled)

34. (currently amended) A nipple for feeding a baby comprising

a stem having an orifice, a proximal end and a distal end, said stem being inwardly tapered toward said distal end;

an areola region being connected to said proximal end of said stem; and

a bulbous region being connected to said areola region and surrounding said areola region, wherein said areola region is substantially concentrically aligned with said bulbous region when viewed in a top view, and wherein said proximal end of said stem has opposing sides with inwardly concave shapes when viewed in a front view, wherein said areola region and said proximal end of said stem are connected along an inwardly concave surface and wherein said inwardly concave surface is smooth.

35-36. (cancelled)

37. (previously presented) The nipple of 34, wherein said bulbous region has an outwardly convex shape.

38. (previously presented) The nipple of 34, wherein said

areola region has an outwardly convex shape.

39. (previously presented) The nipple of 34, further comprising an annular edge disposed between said areola region and said bulbous region.

40. (previously presented) The nipple of 39, wherein the nipple has only one edge which is said annular edge.

41. (previously presented) The nipple of 34, wherein said areola region has a radius of curvature of between about 5 mm to about 10 mm.

42. (previously presented) The nipple of 34, wherein said bulbous region has a radius of curvature of between about 10 mm to about 19 mm.

43. (previously presented) The nipple of 34, further comprising a flange extending outwardly from said bulbous region, said flange having an annular channel formed therein.

44. (previously presented) The nipple of 34, wherein said stem has a length of about 16 mm to about 26 mm.

45. (currently amended) A nipple for feeding a baby comprising:

a stem having an orifice, a proximal end and a distal end, said stem being inwardly tapered toward said distal end; and

a base having an areola region and a bulbous region, said base being connected to said proximal end of said stem, said areola region being disposed between said proximal end of said stem and said bulbous region, wherein said areola region is

substantially concentrically aligned with said bulbous region when viewed in a top view, and wherein said base has only two curved portions which are said areola region and said bulbous region, and wherein the nipple has only one edge along the base which is an annular edge disposed between said areola region and said bulbous region.

46. (previously presented) The nipple of 45, wherein said proximal end of said stem is connected to said base along an inwardly concave surface.

47. (previously presented) The nipple of 46, wherein said inwardly concave surface is substantially smooth.

48. (previously presented) The nipple of 45, wherein said areola region has an outwardly convex shape.

49. (previously presented) The nipple of 45, wherein said areola region has a radius of curvature of about 5 mm to about 10 mm.

50. (previously presented) The nipple of 45, wherein said bulbous region has an outwardly convex shape.

51. (previously presented) The nipple of 45, wherein said bulbous region has a radius of curvature of about 10 mm to about 19 mm.

52. (previously presented) The nipple of 45, further comprising a flange extending outwardly from said bulbous region, said flange having an annular channel formed therein.

53. (previously presented) The nipple of 45, wherein said stem has a length of about 16 mm to about 26 mm.

54. (previously presented) The nipple of 45, wherein said proximal end of said stem has opposing sides with inwardly concave shapes when viewed in a front view.

55-56. (cancelled)

57. (currently amended) A nipple for feeding of a baby comprising:

a stem having an orifice, a proximal end and a distal end, said stem being inwardly tapered toward said distal end;

an areola region being connected to said stem, said areola region having a first radius of curvature, said areola region and said proximal end of said stem being connected to form an inwardly ~~smooth-concave surface~~, a transition from said areola region to said proximal end of said stem being smooth; and

a bulbous region being connected to said areola region and surrounding said areola region, said bulbous region having a second radius of curvature, wherein said areola region is substantially concentrically aligned with said bulbous region when viewed in a top view, and wherein said first radius of curvature is different from said second radius of curvature.

58. (previously presented) The nipple of 57, wherein said first radius of curvature is substantially less than said second radius of curvature.

59. (previously presented) The nipple of 57, wherein said first radius of curvature is between about 5 mm to about 10 mm,

and wherein said second radius of curvature is between about 10 mm to about 19 mm.

60. (previously presented) The nipple of 57, wherein said areola region is defined by an upper annular end and a lower annular edge, said upper annular end being substantially smooth, said lower annular edge being sharp.

61. (previously presented) The nipple of 60, wherein said areola region and said bulbous region have only one edge which is said lower annular edge.

62. (previously presented) The nipple of 57, wherein said proximal end of said stem has opposing sides with inwardly concave shapes when viewed in a front view.

63. (previously presented) The nipple of 57, further comprising a flange extending outwardly from said bulbous region, said flange having an annular channel formed therein.

64. (previously presented) The nipple of 57, wherein said stem has a length of about 16 mm to about 26 mm.